



Winning the future, Proterra style

When President Obama said that America's small businesses need to out-innovate, out-educate, and out-build their competition, he must have had Proterra in mind.

In 2009, Proterra did not have the financial resources or customer orders to commercialize its fast charge battery bus and charging station. Although FTA grants had helped support the company's fuel-cell research, they were unable to grow from a research and development company into an assembly line manufacturer of high technology vehicles.

But with help from Department of Transportation grants to transit agencies across the country, Proterra has been able to [make that leap](#).

Now, this company is researching and developing fresh transit technology to reduce fuel costs, oil dependence, and air pollution. They are [investing in a new plant at Clemson University](#), where they will collaborate with some of the brightest minds on campus and train the next generation of transportation engineers and scientists. And they are building the world's first all electric fast-charging buses.

And did I mention that they are also creating quality jobs for hardworking South Carolinians? Thanks to smart government investments and private sector creativity, the buses of the future are being conceived and built by [skilled American workers and engineers](#).

Plus, Proterra's evolution into a manufacturer has [generated ripple effects](#) across the country. Proterra's buses use bus charging station components built by Aerovironment in Monrovia, California. They also feature lithium batteries produced by Altairnano in Reno, Nevada, and propulsion systems manufactured by UQM in Longmont, Colorado.

"We expect Proterra to become a significant customer for our electric propulsion systems over the next several years as they ramp up their delivery of buses, resulting in the creation of jobs at our Longmont facility," said , UQM President and CEO Eric Ridenour.

The Proterra story isn't just about how government can deliver the extra little boost to help an entrepreneur turn a bold idea into a transformational product. It's about ordinary Americans dreaming big and building big.

By rolling off the line the world's first fast-charge all-electric transit buses with more American-made parts and materials than any other bus in service, Proterra and its more than 120 Greenville workers have certainly built big.